

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method of forming a histogram of an original image, setting an image processing condition in accordance with the formed histogram, and performing image processing for the original image, the method comprising the steps of:
 - judging from a shape of the formed histogram whether the original image is an image picture; and
 - if it is judged that the original image is not an image picture, not performing the image processing for the original image.
2. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein:
 - a value of the formed histogram having a degree of generally 0 is counted; and
 - whether the original image is an image picture or not is judged from a count result.
3. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein:
 - a highlight point and a shadow point are detected from the histogram; and
 - the image processing condition is set in accordance with the detected highlight and shadow points.

4. An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a drawing instruction for the original image; and

5 judging through analysis of the drawing instruction whether the original image is an image picture.

5. An image processing method according to claim 10 1, wherein the image processing is performed independently for each original image constituting an input image.

6. An image processing method according to claim 15 1, wherein:

a highlight point and a shadow point are detected from the formed histogram; and

whether the original image is an image picture or not is judged from values of the detected highlight and 20 shadow points.

7. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

forming a histogram of lightness of an original 25 image;

setting a correction condition for lightness components in accordance with the histogram of

lightness;

setting a correction condition for hue components
in accordance with the correction condition for
lightness; and

5 correcting the original image in accordance with
the correction conditions for lightness and hue.

8. An image processing method according to claim
7, further comprising the steps of:

10 obtaining a highlight point and a shadow point in
accordance with the histogram of lightness; and

correcting color fogging in accordance with the
obtained highlight and shadow points.

15 9. An image processing method according to claim
7, wherein:

correct image data is subjected to a color
correction in accordance with an output device; and

20 an image is output in accordance with the color
corrected image data.

10. An image processing method of performing an
image correction process in accordance with a highlight
point and a shadow point of an original image, the
25 method comprising the steps of:

forming a histogram of hue of the original image;
judging from a shape of the formed histogram of

hue whether the original image is subjected to the image correction process; and

controlling the image correction process in accordance with a judged result.

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11. An image processing method according to claim 10, wherein dispersed values of the histogram of hue are obtained and whether the image correction process is performed is judged from the dispersed values.

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12. An image processing method according to claim 10, wherein a drawing instruction for the original image is input and whether the original image is an image picture is judged through analysis of the drawing instruction.

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13. An image processing apparatus for forming a histogram of an original image, setting an image processing condition in accordance with the formed histogram, and performing image processing for the original image, the apparatus comprising:

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means for judging from a shape of the formed histogram whether the original image is an image picture; and

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means for not performing the image processing for the original image if it is judged that the original image is not an image picture.

14. A computer readable storage medium storing
program steps for executing functions of an image
processing apparatus for forming a histogram of an
original image, setting an image processing condition
5 in accordance with the formed histogram, and performing
image processing for the original image, the program
steps comprising:

judging from a shape of the formed histogram
whether the original image is an image picture; and
10 not performing the image processing for the
original image if it is judged that the original image
is not an image picture.

15. An image processing apparatus comprising:
15 means for forming a histogram of lightness of an
original image;
means for setting a correction condition for
lightness components in accordance with the histogram
of lightness;
20 means for setting a correction condition for hue
components in accordance with the correction condition
for lightness; and
means for correcting the original image in
accordance with the correction conditions for lightness
25 and hue.

16. A computer readable storage medium storing

program steps for executing functions of an image processing apparatus, the program steps comprising:

forming a histogram of lightness of an original image;

5 setting a correction condition for lightness components in accordance with the histogram of lightness;

 setting a correction condition for hue components in accordance with the correction condition for
10 lightness; and

 correcting the original image in accordance with the correction conditions for lightness and hue.

17. An image processing apparatus for performing
15 an image correction process in accordance with a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image, the apparatus comprising:

 means for forming a histogram of hue of the original image;

20 means for judging from a shape of the formed histogram of hue whether the original image is subjected to the image correction process; and

 means for controlling the image correction process in accordance with a judged result.

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18. A computer readable storage medium storing program steps for executing functions of an image

processing apparatus for performing an image correction process in accordance with a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image, the program steps comprising:

- 5 forming a histogram of hue of the original image;
 judging from a shape of the formed histogram of hue whether the original image is subjected to the image correction process; and
 controlling the image correction process in
- 10 accordance with a judged result.